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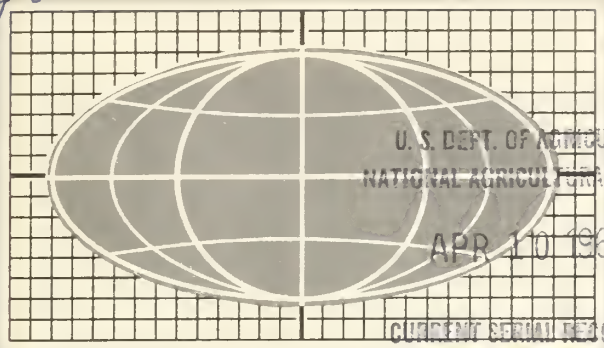

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MOROCCO'S AGRICULTURAL ECONOMY IN BRIEF

By Carolee Santmyer

RS-FOREIGN 214 FOREIGN REGIONAL ANALYSIS DIVISION MARCH 1968

In 1956, the former French and Spanish protectorates, as well as the Free Zone of Tangier, were united to form the Kingdom of Morocco. Its capital is Rabat and its leading seaport is Casablanca.

Morocco produces about one-fifth of the world's phosphates and is one of the world's leading citrus exporters. In 1965, agricultural products accounted for roughly 42 percent of its total exports by value.

France is Morocco's leading trading partner, but Moroccan trade has recently tended to shift away from France toward other world markets. The United States normally supplies substantial amounts of grains and vegetable oils under the U.S. Food for Peace Program.

LAND CHARACTERISTICS AND USE

Morocco, with a land area of about 171,800 square miles (109,952,000 acres), occupies the northwestern corner of the African continent, just south of Spain. The climate, which is greatly influenced by the Atlantic Ocean and the Atlas Mountains, is of the Mediterranean type, with generally mild winters and hot, dry summers. In normal crop years, western Morocco experiences mild temperatures and receives sufficient quantities of rainfall for agricultural production. Temperature and temperature variations increase in the central area of the country, while the climate south and east of the Atlas ranges is very dry and hot.

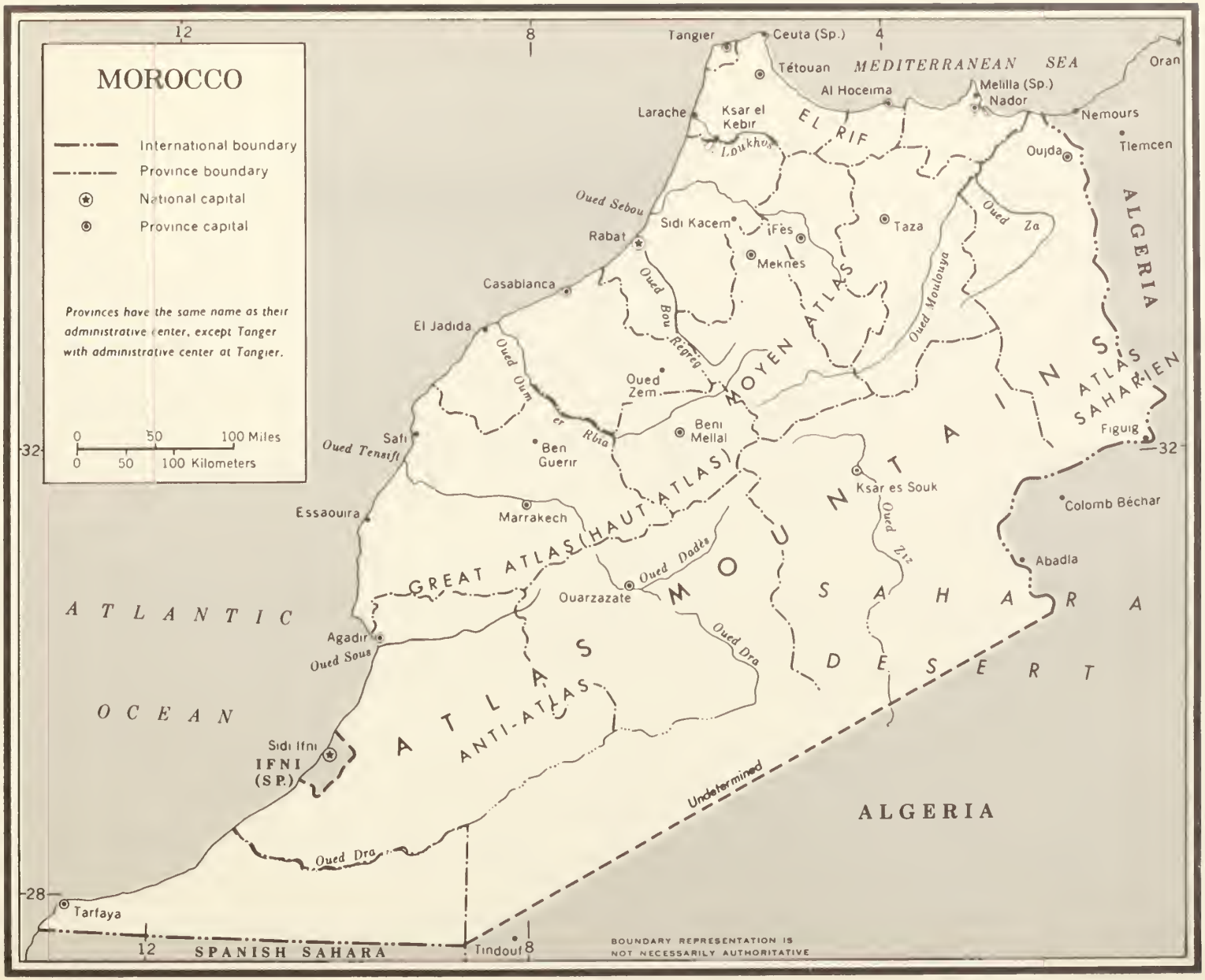
About 40 percent of the total area of Morocco is classified as agricultural land. Of this, 21 million acres are arable or under tree crops and about 25 million acres are covered with permanent meadows and pastures. The Rif Mountains in the north and the Atlas ranges, running from the Atlantic coast to the northeast, enclose a series of fertile plains and plateaus; semidesert areas extend south and east of the Atlas Mountains.

The variations in climate and terrain favor a variety of crops in Morocco. Annual rainfall varies from 47 inches in the north to about 2 inches in the south. Compared with other regions of northern Africa, Morocco is well supplied with underground and surface water.

POPULATION

Increasing over 3 percent annually, Morocco's population was estimated at about 13.7 million in 1966. About 70 percent of the people live in rural areas and engage in

Economic Research Service U.S. Department of Agriculture



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agriculture. The most populated agricultural areas are the fertile lands situated between the mountain ranges and the coast; the mountain and desert areas are sparsely populated by nomadic tribesmen. In 1965, the country's largest cities were Casablanca, Rabat-Sale, Marrakech, Fes, and Meknes. Substantial population increases, in addition to a rural-to-urban migration, are causing urban housing and employment problems throughout the country.

Morocco's labor force contained about 4.5 million people in 1966; however, only 20 percent of this total were classified as wage earners.

Emigration reduced the number of foreign inhabitants--about 325,000 in 1963--to about 1 percent of the population by 1966. The native Moroccans are mainly a mixture of Arab and Berber stock, but many mountain dwellers are of pure Berber ancestry.

The official language of Morocco is Arabic, although French is widely used, especially in business and Government circles. Spanish is commonly spoken in northern Morocco. Berber, which is spoken in many parts of the interior, is the only language of about one-third of the population.

The nation's literacy rate ranges between 10 and 15 percent. Morocco's expanding educational facilities, however, are increasing it; the rate for school children between 10 and 14 years of age is approaching 30 percent.

In 1962, life expectancy in Morocco was estimated to be 50 years, and the infant mortality rate was about 150 deaths per 1,000 live births.

AGRICULTURAL SITUATION

Agriculture is responsible for 30 to 35 percent of Morocco's gross national product, and food processing represents roughly two-fifths of the total industrial production.

The country has three basic types of landownership--private, tribal, and State. Technologically, the majority of farms fall into a traditional sector which produces almost entirely at the subsistence level for local consumption; however, the relatively modern sector, which covers only 7 percent of the total agricultural land or about 3.2 million acres, produces commercial crops.

Most arable land is privately owned, but the Government has nationalized some properties since independence in 1956 and there have been substantial sales of European farms to Moroccans. The country's economic development plan for 1965-67, described later in the report, called for nationalized and foreign-held lands to be redistributed to Moroccans and farmed cooperatively. Farm size in the modern sector is usually over 200 acres, compared with the traditional sector where four-fifths of the farmers cultivate farms of less than 10 acres.

The traditional agricultural sector is still very underdeveloped with small farms employing backward cultivation methods, but the Government has given priority to agriculture in the development plan to encourage improvements. A central credit organization is providing money to help farmers and cooperatives purchase machinery, and the World Bank and other international and national organizations have extended capital and technical assistance to Morocco in recent years. The need for development is emphasized by the fact that, even in years of normal harvest, grain has to be imported in order to feed the expanding population. There has been no significant change in the area or yields of Morocco's cereals in the past 30 years.

The outlook for agriculture is uncertain. Per capita output of agricultural products has declined slightly in the past 10 years. Since Morocco's population is increasing at roughly 3 percent annually, agricultural production must expand by over 3 percent a year to achieve real growth. This may be possible in the coming years if the country can maintain political stability, sufficient foreign assistance, and effective Government programs to increase the productivity of the traditional sector.

FARM TECHNOLOGY

Although agricultural extension services were provided to farmers before and after independence, only a small percentage of the farmers have benefited from them. Most Moroccans farm their land with primitive equipment. Plowing is usually accomplished by iron-tipped, wooden plows drawn by a camel and a donkey working as a team. Because of this primitive equipment and the poor physical condition of the animals, normally no more than one-fifth of an acre can be plowed in a day. In the mountainous regions where plows cannot be used, hoes and sickles are the most commonly used implements. Fields in the traditional sector are seldom attended to after planting, and the harvested grain crops are threshed by animal treading.

The more modern mechanized sector saw a recent decline in its level of technology as the Europeans departed. In some cases, European-owned farms were abandoned or neglected by their owners prior to transfer of ownership, but in many cases the new farm managers were inexperienced.

Operation Plow was begun by the Moroccan Government in 1957 to provide various services and supplies to the traditional farmers. Among these were mechanized plowing and disking, fertilizer, improved seed, and, in some cases, combine harvesting. Related charges have been subsidized by the Government and reduced or canceled in the event of a poor harvest. However, the acreage serviced by Operation Plow has declined in the past 5 years, and some of the OP machinery is now inoperative. From the beginning, only the best traditionally farmed land has been included in this program. Other than Operation Plow, the use of farm machinery in Morocco is limited almost exclusively to the modern sector. Table 1 lists the total number of tractors and combines in Morocco from 1958 to 1962.

Little fertilizer is used by Morocco's traditional farmers; almost no commercial fertilizer is used and manure is applied only for truck or certain specialized crops. The modern sector, however, does use fertilizer since nitrogen and phosphorus are needed on most Moroccan soils. Many farmers in the modern sector report the use of fertilizer on cotton and sugar beets but not much on wheat; however, a cereal fertilizer program (Operation Engrais) was begun in the 1966-67 agricultural season. Morocco's total consumption of fertilizer from 1954 to 1965 is shown in table 2.

Research in the area of seed improvement has been carried out in Morocco for many years, but except for the modern sector most farmers still use seed saved from the previous harvest.

Morocco's Plant Protection Service has done extensive work on the control of insects and plant diseases, and the modern sector has made use of pesticides and other pest control methods. The age-old problem of locusts seems to be under control as a direct result of an anti-locust campaign which has been active since 1954.

The country's high mountains and numerous rivers with year-round flow give Morocco good irrigation possibilities. A number of irrigation projects have been

Table 1.--Number of tractors and combines in Morocco, 1958-62

Year	Tractors	Combines
	Thousands	
1958	12.4	n.a.
1959	13.4	n.a.
1960	14.0	n.a.
1961	11.5	3.4
1962	10.9	3.1

n.a. - Data not available.

Table 2.--Consumption of commercial fertilizer, Morocco, 1954-65

(Thousand metric tons, plant nutrient content)

Year	Nitrogen (N)	Phosphoric Acid (P_2O_5)	Potash (K_2O)
1954 1/	5.4	19.8	6.6
1955 1/	6.1	18.3	6.2
1956 1/	4.4	9.3	2.9
1957 1/	4.1	15.7	3.9
1958	7.5	18.7	4.8
1959	6.5	17.1	5.2
1960	9.2	17.4	6.3
1961	8.6	14.6	5.8
1962	15.8	18.4	10.1
1963	18.1	20.7	11.6
1964	11.8	20.2	7.0
1965	12.2	23.2	8.6

1/ Former French Morocco only.

developed and roughly a million acres of land were under irrigation by 1964. Morocco is estimated to have sufficient water to ultimately irrigate almost 2.5 million acres. Rivers offering possibilities or presently being used for irrigation include the Moulouya, which rises in the High Atlas and flows through northeastern Morocco to the Mediterranean Sea; the Loukkos, Sebou, Bou Regreg, Oum er Rbia, Tensift, and Sous, which cross through the coastal plains to the Atlantic Ocean; and the Ziz and Dra systems, which flow intermittently through much of the dry areas south of the mountains.

AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION

Agricultural statistics on Morocco must be regarded with reservation. Most are based upon tax statistics prior to 1961, a 1962 agricultural survey, and subsequent seasonal estimates. In addition, marketing statistics provide limited guidance when estimating commercial crop production.

Leading agricultural products are grains, citrus fruits, sugar, wine, potatoes, dry legumes and other vegetables, and livestock products (table 3). Over four-fifths of the country's cropland is occupied by grains, mostly wheat, barley, and corn. In 1966, barley was grown on about 4.4 million acres, wheat on roughly 4.0 million, and corn on about 1.1 million. Grown on a smaller scale are sorghum, millet, oats, canarygrass, rice, and rye. Grain planting begins about October, and barley can be ready to harvest in April. In contrast, corn is sometimes harvested as late as the following October. The area and production of rice, an irrigated crop, have increased in the past 2 or 3 years, but most irrigated land is used to produce cotton, sugar beets, vegetables, and citrus fruits.

Average yields per hectare of grains are generally low, especially in the traditional sector where both the methods of cultivation and a sizable portion of the cropland are inferior to those in the modern sector. For example, barley, grown almost exclusively by the traditional sector with substantial use of marginal land, is critically affected by dry seasons. In the drought of 1961, barley production dropped to 548,000 metric tons compared with 1,463,000 metric tons in 1963.

Morocco's agricultural production has suffered from two severe droughts in the past 10 years. In 1957, production was 13 percent below the 1957-59 average, and it was 20 percent below this average in 1961. There were also adverse weather conditions in 1966 and 1967 which lowered agricultural production. Irrigated crops and dates are normally least affected by dry weather. Dates, however, come principally from native palms which receive little care and are subject to the Bayoud palm disease. Olive production can be affected by drought, the Dacus olive fly, late storms, and the cyclical

Table 3.--Estimated production of principal agricultural commodities, Morocco, average 1960-64 and annual 1965-66

Commodity	1960-64 average	1965	1966
	1,000 metric tons		
Barley	1,114	1,189	506
Wheat	1,036	1,316	812
Corn	297	272	154
Sorghum and millet	75	48	32
Rice, paddy	17	18	25
Oats	17	18	12
Pulses	156	246	126
Potatoes	166	271	276
Tomatoes	221	291	303
Olive oil 1/	20	35	10
Oranges and tangerines	492	596	676
Grapefruit	13	16	17
Lemons	9	9	9
Grapes	368	448	400
Figs, dried	14	15	2/ 15
Dates	74	85	95
Tobacco	2	2	2
Flaxseed	8	10	8
Cotton lint	4	11	8
Cottonseed	9	24	16
Sunflower seed	6	6	5
Milk 3/ 4/	519	524	510
Eggs	51	52	2/ 51
Meat 4/	140	154	160
Wool, greasy basis	15	14	14

1/ Excluding sulfur oil. Oil pressed in marketing season beginning November 1. 2/ Estimate. 3/ Largest portion composed of cow's milk, followed by goat's, sheep's, and camel's milk. 4/ Milk figures represent human consumption, and meat figures account for commercial slaughter only. In both cases, total production would be almost double the reported figures. About 70 percent of total meat production represents equal amounts of poultry, cattle, and sheep, with the remainder composed mostly of mules and goats plus some rabbits, pork, and game.

nature of the olive tree. The 1966 olive crop suffered from all of these.

Fall and winter land preparation was hampered in some areas because of reduced livestock power in 1966 and 1967; poor pasture conditions and a reduced supply of cereal straw for feed brought about heavy livestock selling in 1966, as it does in most dry years. A widespread epidemic of African horse sickness also struck Morocco that year.

Livestock products account for about one-third of the gross value of the country's agricultural production. Most livestock is raised in the traditional sector where livestock owners are often nomads or seminomads. They raise little or no livestock feed, and their animals are frequently pastured on collectively shared land, some of which is quite distant from the

Table 4.--Livestock and poultry numbers in Morocco, 1965-67 1/

(1,000 head)

Item	1965	1966	1967
Cattle	2,650	2,600	2,550
Sheep	14,500	12,400	12,000
Goats	7,000	6,850	6,100
Camels	210	212	212
Horses	280	240	235
Mules	260	240	240
Donkeys	1,250	1,200	1,100
Hogs	45	40	40
Poultry	50	55	60

1/ Ministry of Agriculture, Morocco, for 1965; Embassy estimates for 1966 and 1967.

home farm. Many farmers entrust their herds and flocks to herdsmen or shepherds who work for a share of the livestock products. The livestock population (table 4) in Morocco is relatively large compared with the country's human population, but output and consumption of livestock products are low. Improved livestock management techniques are needed.

FOOD SUPPLY SITUATION

According to a food consumption survey conducted by the Moroccan Government in 1959-60, urban dwellers were consuming about 2,000 calories per day, while the rural inhabitants enjoyed a daily intake of 2,800 calories. This gave the country an average individual intake of 2,600 calories.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture has estimated average daily caloric intake in Morocco during 1959-61 at about 2,200 units.1/ Approximately three-fifths of this average was supplied by grains, consumption of which was highest in the rural areas. Sugar, used extensively in mint tea, contributed roughly 295 calories to the diet--the highest sugar consumption reported in northern Africa. Animal products, including animal fats, added another 231 calories, and about 90 calories were derived from pulses. Fruits, vegetables, and vegetable oils accounted for the remaining calories. In general, the Moroccan daily diet contained about 66 grams of protein and 44 grams of fat, compared with the average U.S. intake of 95 grams of protein and 146 grams of fat.

Morocco imports soft wheat and wheat flour. About 60 percent of the country's fat and oil requirements are imported, and, in the past, almost all sugar was imported. However, domestic production of sugar began in earnest in 1963 and may eventually replace imports. The country produces a sufficient quantity of dry legumes, fruits, and vegetables for local consumption and for export.

TRADE

Morocco produces about 20 percent of the world's phosphate. It is the country's leading export, representing about one-fourth the value of total exports.

Grains were once Morocco's leading agricultural export. However, because of population growth and a lag in per capita grain production, Morocco has become a net importer of wheat and wheat flour in recent years while remaining, in general, a net exporter of most other grains. In 1965, the leading agricultural export was citrus fruits (table 5). Other leading agricultural exports were vegetables, wine, and animal products. Total exports in that year were valued at $431 million. About 42 percent of this value was derived from agricultural products. The value of

1/ U.S. Department of Agriculture. Food Balances for 30 Countries in Africa and West Asia, 1959-61. Economic Research Service. ERS-Foreign 119. March 1965.

TABLE 5.--EXPORTS AND IMPORTS, MOROCCO, 1965

Exports: Quantity and value of agricultural commodities by country of destination, 1965

SITC Number		Commodity and country	Quantity	Value
Major headings	Subheadings		1,000 metric tons	1,000 dollars
00		Live animals	2.8	1,189
	001.5	Horses, asses, mules, etc.	2.6	1,115
		France	2.6	1,109
011		Meat	1/	33
02		Dairy products	.2	146
	025	Eggs	.2	141
031		Fish, fresh, canned	32.5	17,209
	032	Canned	26.1	14,656
04		Cereals and preparations	115.2	8,266
	043	Barley	6.6	412
	044	Maize (corn)	61.5	3,448
		Spain	30.9	1,507
		Hungary	14.8	900
		Senegal	2.6	162
		Martinique	2.2	157
		Italy	2.3	144
		Canary Islands	2.1	116
	042	Rice	3.8	509
		Algeria	2.5	323
	045	Cereals, unmilled	36.2	3,386
		Millet and sorghum	4.7	425
		Canary grass	31.2	2,961
		United Kingdom	9.0	909
		Spain	5.2	483
		France	4.8	433
		Belgium-Luxembourgh	2.8	255
		Italy	1.6	145
		West Germany	1.0	89
	048	Cereal preparations	68	511
05		Fruit and vegetables	891.0	138,613
	051.1	Oranges, mandarines & clementines, etc.	409.9	61,379
		France	212.9	32,226
		West Germany	72.2	10,624
		U.S.S.R.	55.5	8,121
		Netherlands	31.1	4,782
		United Kingdom	66.5	1,670
		Norway	8.1	1,143
		Czechoslavakia	3.8	597
		Spain	2.3	236
	051.2	Other citrus fruit	2.6	295
	051.7	Edible nuts	5.4	6,611
		Almonds	5.4	6,610
		Cuba	1.5	1,808
		France	1.0	1,204
		West Germany	.9	1,042
		Hungary	.8	1,034
		United Kingdom	.6	684
		U.S.S.R.	.2	339
		Netherlands	.2	180
	054	Vegetables, fresh, dried	460.6	68,560
	054.1	Potatoes	102.9	9,797
		France	80.5	7,649
		United Kingdom	15.2	1,418
		West Germany	2.5	232
		Senegal	.8	106
	054.4	Tomatoes, fresh	140.7	27,113
		France	121.4	23.702
	054.2	Pulses, dried	168.9	20,212
		Spain	56.2	6,796
		France	40.9	4,977
		Cuba	16.7	2,534
		Hungary	26.6	2,257
		Italy	4.1	605
		Czechoslavakia	7.1	587
06		Sugar	7.9	2,113
		Ivory Coast	7.8	2,096
07		Coffee, tea, cocoa, spices	15.2	2,660
	075	Spices	15.0	2,593
	075.1	Pimiento	2.4	992
		United States	.8	486
		Algeria	1.1	345
	075.2(5)	Seeds of coriander, cumin, etc	12.6	1,602
		Ceylon	5.3	546
		United States	1.0	167

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Exports: Quantity and value of agricultural commodities by country of destination, 1965--continued

SITC Number		Commodity and country	Quantity	Value
Major headings	Subheadings		1,000 metric tons	1,000 dollars
		Algeria	.7	140
		Japan	.9	86
08		Feeding-stuff for animals	9.6	1,651
	081.3	Oil-seed cake and meal	9.6	1,651
		Portugal	6.3	606
		France	6.8	552
		Canary Island	1.9	190
		Spain	1.1	123
09		Miscellaneous food	.2	615
11		Beverages (wine)	159.2	18,506
		France	115.6	15,161
		Ivory Coast	13.4	1,061
		West Germany	12.8	749
		Algeria	1.6	250
		Cameroon	1.8	152
12		Tobacco	1/	28
21		Hides and skins	.1	44
22		Oilseeds	5.4	776
	221.5	Linseed	2.0	332
	221.6	Cottonseed	1.9	147
26		Natural fibers	8.0	7,617
	262	Wool and animal hair	1.4	1,743
		U.S.S.R.	.5	902
		France	.5	387
		Cuba	.2	209
	263	Cotton	6.5	5,838
		China	2.0	1,889
		Hungary	1.0	958
		Cuba	1.0	924
		Spain	1.0	758
		U.S.S.R.	.6	594
		Czechoslavakia	.2	132
		West Germany	.3	280
29		Crude animal & veg. materials	3.1	1,636
	291.9(3)	Guts, bladders of animals	.2	1,247
		France	.1	753
41		Animal oils and fats	1.3	213
42		Fixed vegetable oils & fats	1.0	696
	421.5	Olive oil	.8	561
Total agricultural exports excluding fish				184,802
Nonagricultural exports				246,101
Total exports				430,903
France				189,728
West Germany				36,075
Spain				26,086
United Kingdom				21,318
Netherlands				14,253
U.S.S.R.				11,123
Algeria				10,557
Italy				10,490
China				9,266
Hungary				8,550
Cuba				8,048
United States				7,001
Poland				6,015
Czechoslavakia				5,440
Sweden				4,874
Portugal				4,195
Japan				4,134
Denmark				3,283
Other countries				50,467

Imports: Quantity and value of agricultural commodities by country of origin, 1965

SITC Number Major headings	SITC Number Sub-headings	Commodity and country	Quantity	Value
			1,000 metric tons	1,000 dollars
001		Live animals	--	257
011		Meat and preparations	.1	62
02		Dairy products and honey	16.9	9,555
	022	Milk and cream	11.0	4,530
		Netherlands	8.0	3,197
		France	1.8	840
		United States	.7	215
	023	Butter	3.7	3,152
		France	2.1	2,010
		Netherlands	1.1	740
		United States	.2	217
		Poland	.1	103
	024	Cheese	2.2	1,859
		France	1.1	1,054
		Finland	.6	444
		Netherlands	.3	176
03		Fish	.2	47
04		Cereal and preparations	302.2	21,534
	041	Wheat	228.4	15,660
		France	117.0	7,503
		United States	111.3	8,157
	043	Maize	10.0	501
	046	Wheat flour	61.6	4,524
		United States	61.6	4,521
	048	Cereal preparations	1.0	707
05		Fruits and vegetables	50.8	5,463
	051	Fruits and nuts	12.7	2,168
	051.3	Bananas	8.5	1,159
		Canary Islands	8.3	1,130
	051.4	Apples	1.5	303
		France	1.0	185
	053	Preserved fruit	.5	203
	054	Vegetables, fresh, frozen	37.6	3,091
	054.1	Potatoes	37.2	3,020
		France	15.5	1,234
		Netherlands	9.1	857
		Poland	6.1	360
		Denmark	3.6	255
		West Germany	2.0	254
06		Sugar	371.4	73,374
	061.1	Sugar, raw	351.5	67,890
		Cuba	197.0	36,469
		Formosa	82.2	16,356
		France	34.6	7,254
		Poland	26.5	5,465
	061.2	Sugar, refined	20.0	5,483
		France	9.6	2,640
		Belgium-Luxembourgh	7.2	1,980
		Czechoslavakia	3.1	863
07		Coffee, tea, spice & cocoa	19.1	17,561
	071.1	Coffee	9.6	6,031
		Ivory Coast	5.6	3,456
		Cameroon	1.5	960
		Madagascar	1.2	779
		Indonesia	.5	338
		Guinea	.3	172
	072	Cocoa	.4	188
	074	Tea	8.1	11,083
		China	6.3	9,882
		Formosa	1.7	1,000
	075	Spices	1.0	259
08		Feeding-stuff for animals	.2	87
09		Miscellaneous food	1.2	597
111		Beverages	6.4	1,465
		Mineral water	4.8	750
112		Beer and wine	.7	602
12		Tobacco	3.8	2,262
		United States	.5	564
		Brazil	1.2	585
		Dominican Republic	.6	298
		Philippines	.6	291
		Columbia	.4	208
		Indonesia	.1	101

- continued

Imports: Quantity and value of agricultural commodities by country of origin, 1965--continued

SITC Number		Commodity and country	Quantity	Value
Major headings	Subheadings		1,000 metric tons	1,000 dollars
21		Hides and skins	.2	86
22		Oilseeds	14.7	2,316
	221.1	Peanuts	4.7	1,020
		Gambia	2.4	521
		Nigeria	2.0	405
	221.4	Soybeans	9.3	1,127
		United States	9.3	1,127
23	231	Rubber, crude	1.5	729
26		Natural fibers	5.6	4,183
	262	Wool and animal hair	.9	1,492
		France	.8	1,405
	263.1	Cotton	4.7	2,691
		United States	2.1	1,294
		Chad	1.6	831
		Cameroon	.4	217
292.1.5		Crude vegetable materials	1.1	594
42		Vegetable oils	74.8	22,510
	421.2	Soybean oil	44.5	12,798
		United States	41.5	11,897
		Netherlands	3.0	901
	421.3	Cotton seed oil	25.1	8,014
		United States	22.6	7,257
	422.3	Copra oil	1.8	601
		Total of above agricultural imports excluding fish		162,635
		Nonagricultural imports		291,049
		Total imports		453,684
		France		174,003
		United States		53,631
		Cuba		36,762
		West Germany		27,808
		Formosa		17,539
		Italy		13,899
		China		11,963
		Netherlands		11,791
		United Kingdom		11,753
		U.S.S.R.		9,520
		Poland		7,602
		Sweden		5,493
		Spain		5,008
		Czechoslavakia		4,215
		Portugal		3,739
		Switzerland		3,166
		Malaysia		2,738
		Brazil		2,704
		Japan		2,499
		Saudi Arabia		2,016
		Finland		1,948
		Other countries		43,887

1/ Less than 50 metric tons.

Source: Statistiques du Mouvement Commercial et Maritime du Maroc, 1965.

Converted 5.06 dirhams per U.S. dollar - U.S. $0.19760=DH 1.

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WASHINGTON, D.C. 20250

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agricultural imports in 1965 totaled about $163 million, representing roughly 36 percent of the total import value. Topping the import list were foods, beverages, and tobacco.

France supplied roughly 38 percent of Morocco's imports in 1965 and received about 44 percent of its exports. Other major buyers were the Communist Bloc, West Germany, and the United Kingdom. The Communist Bloc supplied 15 percent of Morocco's total imports; the United States was third with 12 percent. U.S. exports to Morocco totaled about $55 million with agricultural products accounting for about 72 percent of this total. Wheat, cottonseed oil, and soybean oil were the major items supplied by the United States. Total U.S. imports from Morocco were valued at $7 million in 1965; about one-fourth were agricultural items, mostly seasonings and spices.

Morocco is moving to diversify trade by shifting sales from France to other world markets. Trade with eastern European countries has been increasing, and trade delegations from various countries have become active in Morocco. In spite of the rising demand for products, however, Morocco has a shortage of foreign exchange, especially hard currency, and has been discouraging nonessential imports.

GENERAL ECONOMIC SITUATION

Morocco's 1965-67 3-year plan called for a total investment in the economy of $688 million with primary emphasis upon agriculture, tourism, and technical training in industry. As has been the case in recent years, the country's future development plans will depend heavily upon external financial assistance. Total U.S. economic aid to Morocco for fiscal years 1957 through 1965 reached $484 million.

Morocco's gross national product (in 1965 prices) rose from $2,152 million in 1961 to $2,606 million in 1965; corresponding per capita GNP went from $179 to $196. Both total GNP and per capita GNP fell slightly in 1966 because of agricultural losses caused by drought.

Aside from agriculture, Morocco has several other important economic resources. In addition to phosphates, coal, iron ore, manganese, lead, zinc, and cobalt are mined, and a small quantity of petroleum is produced.

Manufacturing industries in Morocco are engaged mainly in processing food for the domestic market, but processed fruits, vegetables, and fish are exported in significant quantities. Textiles and leather, metals and machinery, building materials, pulp and paper, and chemicals are also produced. In addition, Morocco has an important handicraft industry.

It is estimated that Morocco's improved roads in 1965 totaled 32,180 miles. Approximately 11,203 miles were paved. The country's railroad, almost all single track, extended 1,777 miles in 1966. Its major service is to mining industries and to large cities.

Casablanca, the principal port, handles about 65 percent of the total merchandise traffic. Other ports are Safi--which ships mostly phosphates--Tangier, Agadir, Mohammedia (Fedala), which is near Casablanca, and Kenitra, which lies north of Rabat.